

Edwin B. Forsythe

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jon Corzine (D)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd)
Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3rd)
Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-4th)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1984
Current acres:	46,000
Proposed total acres:	58,886
Staff:	14
FY 2003 budget:	\$1,139,501
2002 volunteer hours:	4,300
2002 visitation:	242,000

Purpose

The refuge was established to protect habitat for migratory birds and other species that rely on New Jersey's coastal wetlands.

Public Use Notes

- An eight-mile wildlife auto tour route
- Freshwater and salt water fishing, clamming and crabbing
- Hunting for white-tailed deer and waterfowl
- Wildlife viewing platforms
- Visitor center

Management Activities

- Managing water levels in four large impoundments to meet the seasonal feeding needs of shorebirds and waterfowl
- Monitoring piping plover and managing visitor access on barrier beaches during the nesting season
- Controlling exotic animals and invasive plants on refuge lands

Highlights

The wetlands of the refuge are recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The refuge is a unit of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

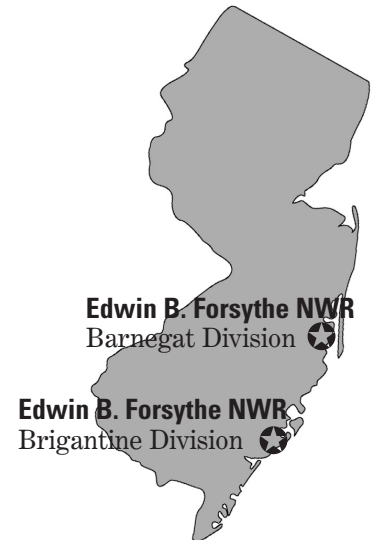
The refuge is a partner in the NOAA Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The refuge is promoted as one of the country's top 10 birding sites.

The refuge has about 6,000 acres of wilderness area that protects barrier beaches and salt marshes.

The refuge offers quality breeding habitat for peregrine falcon, federally listed threatened piping plover and many state-listed endangered species.

The refuge was named for Congressman Edwin B. Forsythe when the Brigantine (est. 1939) and Barnegat (est. 1967) refuges were combined in 1984.



Issues

Acquiring lands within the approved refuge acquisition boundary

Restricting vehicle access in wilderness areas

Hunting seasons and related wildlife management decisions

Removing old buildings that constitute safety hazards

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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